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Holding back the river at Littleport

Rough-tempered neighbours remove sandbags – 1937

DURING the peak of the floods, the river in Littleport rose to such an extent that several layers of sandbags were laid along Lynn Road to keep the water in.

But a crowd of 250 people in a 'rough temper' had started to remove them.

They claimed the bags had caused their houses to be flooded out and they didn't see why others shouldn't be flooded as well. They had tried to stop River Board officials replacing them.

This was a very serious matter as it would have harmed many people and caused damage in the fen.

Majestic Cinema fights to get rates reduced – 1936

THE Majestic Entertainment Company of Ely appealed against the assessment on the Majestic Cinema in New Barns Road.

It was in a back street and it was difficult to get people round there.

The prices had been reduced and they had to remove some of the seats, decreasing the capacity to 342. As a result, takings were down.

Their rates were reduced.

Invention insures motorists against tyre trouble – 1927

A DEMONSTRATION of a new British invention which insures motorists against tyre trouble was given at Messrs Saints' garage, Newmarket Road, Cambridge.

The Otomatic Service is a powder composed of particles of raw rubber and cork and flakes of mica which is inserted into the inner tube of a tyre through the valve hole with a small quantity of liquid formalin and water.

When the tyre is inflated and the car put in motion a thin film is distributed inside the tread which automatically seals any puncture which may occur.

In event of a burst, the inner tubes will be repaired free of charge for 12 months, no matter how numerous the bursts, provided they are not over three inches in length.

The Majestic Cinema building in Ely

Addenbrooke's hospital had an admissions waiting list of about 1,700 in 1948

Many years before public benefits from NHS – 1948

SIR, The public have been told that, under the new National Health Service, the best specialist medical services will be freely available to all, with no fear of doctors' bills or of hospital charges. They believe this to be true.

They will have to begin paying for it on the appointed day. The waiting list for admission to Addenbrooke's Hospital is 1,700-odd.

If a doctor wants a patient to see one of the consultants, he cannot get an appointment until June 08.

By July, it will be much worse because many private patients are holding back hoping to make use of the free service as soon as it starts.

The public ought to be warned that, with the best will in the world and with the most active co-operation of all the doctors, it will be many years before they will benefit from a National Health Service freely available to all.

M.D.